

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code subsection 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby amends Chapter 108, “Mink, Muskrat, Raccoon, Badger, Opossum, Weasel, Striped Skunk, Fox (Red and Gray), Beaver, Coyote, River Otter, Bobcat, Gray (Timber) Wolf and Spotted Skunk Seasons,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These rules stipulate the season dates, bag limits, possession limits and areas open to hunting or trapping furbearers. These amendments:

1. Change the closing date for beavers from April 1 to April 15, increase the quota for bobcats from 250 to 350 and increase the quota for river otters from 500 to 650. Both populations appear capable of sustaining the increased harvest.

2. Increase the seasonal bag limit for river otters from 2 to 3. This change will reduce the number of otters trapped and turned over to the DNR.

3. Change the grace period for taking a bobcat or river otter from 48 hours to a period that ends at midnight of the day after the quota fills and the closed season is announced.

4. Increase the amount of time allowed to get a CITES tag for a bobcat or river otter from 48 hours to seven days. The taking of bobcat or river otter must still be reported within 24 hours of capture so that an accurate count can be maintained. The trapper is also required to bring the skin and the carcass when the trapper picks up the CITES tag so that biological samples may be obtained from the carcass. An exception is made if the bobcat or river otter is going to be taken to a taxidermist to be mounted.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on June 1, 2011, as **ARC 9544B**. A public hearing was held on June 21, 2011. No comments were received. These amendments are identical to those published under Notice of Intended Action.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.6, 481A.38, 481A.39, 481A.87, and 481A.90.

These amendments shall become effective September 14, 2011.

The following amendments are adopted.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571—108.4(481A) as follows:

571—108.4(481A) Beaver. Open season for the taking of beaver shall be from 8 a.m. on the first Saturday in November through April 15 of succeeding year. No bag or possession limit.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 108.7(3) as follows:

108.7(3) Quotas and seasonal bag limit.

a. Seasonal bag limit. The seasonal bag limit is ~~2~~ 3 river otters and 1 bobcat per person.

b. Quotas. The quota for the number of river otters that may be taken is ~~500~~ 650 statewide. The quota for the number of bobcats that may be taken is ~~250~~ 350 in the open area. The season shall end for river otters when the number of river otters trapped, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~500~~ the quota. The season shall end for bobcats when the number of bobcats taken, as determined by the harvest reporting system, reaches ~~250~~ the quota. Trappers shall be allowed a ~~48-hour~~ grace period that ends on midnight of the day after the quota is reached to clear their traps of river otters or bobcats. River otters or bobcats found in traps during the grace period may be kept even though the quota is exceeded provided that the trapper has not reached the trapper’s personal bag limit. River otters or bobcats trapped after the grace period or in excess of the seasonal bag limit must be turned over to the department; the trapper shall not be penalized.

ITEM 3. Amend paragraph **108.7(5)“a”** as follows:

a. Anyone, including a landowner or tenant not required to have a fur harvester license, who takes a river otter or bobcat must report the harvest to a DNR conservation officer or designated DNR employee

within 24 hours. The fur harvester must arrange to receive a CITES tag from the officer or designated DNR employee within ~~48 hours~~ seven days of the time the harvest is reported ~~or before the river otter or bobcat is skinned, whichever occurs first.~~ The river otter or bobcat shall be skinned and the carcass turned over to the DNR conservation officer or designated DNR employee at the time the CITES tag is issued. If the specimen is to be kept whole for taxidermy purposes, a cut shall be made by the trapper between the gum line and eye so the CITES tag can be attached to the skin. It shall be the responsibility of the taxidermist to have the carcass turned over to a DNR conservation officer or designated DNR employee once that animal has been skinned for taxidermy purposes.

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